



International Recognition for Araluen's Camellia Gardens

"Heaven in the Hills... An extraordinary garden in a breathtakingly beautiful setting"

The Araluen Botanic Park at Roleystone in Western Australia joins an elite group of Camellia gardens worldwide in being recognised by the International Camellia Society (ICS) under its Gardens of Excellence program. The accolade was awarded at the ICS World Congress held in Chuxiong (Yunnan), China.



"The ICS launched the Gardens of Excellence program in 2001 to recognise Camellia gardens of excellence. Araluen Botanic Park joins a group of just 17 gardens worldwide that were previously recognised," says General Manager, Rod Ross. "To qualify, gardens must meet a strict set of criteria developed by the ICS to encourage excellence in the growing of Camellias to ensure visitors can see them at their best," he adds.

Garden Development Manager, Grant Nixon, responded, "This is a testament to all the people that have worked to build Araluen into a botanic garden, starting with JJ. 'Boss' Simons of the Young Australia League back in 1929. It was Simons who planted the first Camellia in the gardens adjacent to the Chalet Healy in 1939. This Camellia still exists and is around five metres tall. Since Araluen was saved in 1990, the Foundation's staff and volunteers have worked with the WA Camellia Society to continue planting and caring for the Camellias."

Fed with Neutrog's Sudden Impact for Roses (further demonstrating its use and success on a wide range of flowering plants), Araluen boasts a collection of over 350 Camellias planted amongst the gardens.



They provide fantastic colour from May through to early Summer. Grant wrote to Neutrog recently and said "We are feeling very proud as you can guess. (The Camellias)... are certainly looking the best they ever have this year."

Along with the Camellias, Rhododendrons, Magnolias, Daphnes, Roses and millions of bulbs all flourish amongst the Eucalyptus and Jarrah trees in the magnificent 59 hectare garden and surrounds.

Located in the Darling Range, 35km south-east of the Perth CBD, Araluen Botanic Park is Heaven in the Hills – an extraordinary garden in a breathtakingly beautiful setting. Open for visitors every day, Araluen is truly a garden lover's paradise. For more details visit their new website – www.araluenbotanicpark.com.au

Following the development of Kahoona (see page 3), Araluen are trialling this product on their Camellias.

GOGO at the GG's



Mick Goodie checks the track at Flemington Racecourse

Flemington Racecourse Track Manager, Mick Goodie, is a self confessed workaholic – but when you're looking after the turf of one of the most prestigious racecourses in the country you have to be! His dedication to the health of the track has led to him living on-site for the past 10 years.

Twice a year the turf at Flemington Racecourse track is renovated, and five years ago was completely replaced with over 47km of drainage laid under the track. A Kikuyu base over-sown with 3 perennial rye grasses keeps the turf lush and green.

In the warmer months from September to March two of Mick's staff work 6 nights a week irrigating the track to keep it in top condition.

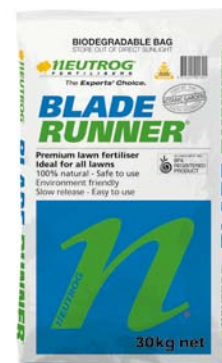
Every 2 months soil tests and leaf analysis are carried out on the turf – Mick uses the results to determine what extra supplements it requires.

After an attack of cockchafers in 2010, Mick has been particularly keen to improve the root growth of the turf. He incorporated an application of GOGO Juice into his fertilising program once a month, and has since seen an increase in a stronger, healthier white root growth.

A strong white root growth is important as it means the Kikuyu is actively growing and healthy. Last year the Kikuyu woke from its dormancy in early August rather than October, and Mick attributes this in part to the applications of GOGO Juice.

During the cooler and generally wetter months of April to July the Kikuyu is dormant and susceptible to brown mould, water rot and rust attacks.

To prevent a resistance building up against the preventative sprays that are used to control these outbreaks, the chemical sprays are rotated regularly. An application of Blade Runner in Autumn will help to further improve drainage, root growth and water



penetration throughout the soil, before the Kikuyu goes into dormancy.

Maintaining the turf at Flemington Racecourse is literally a 24/7 job. When Mick

first started, he would escape the madness at the end of a hard days work by climbing up onto the roof of the Member's Stand! He'd crack open a beer and watch the sun set over the Melbourne city skyline.

These days OH&S prevents him from visiting his favourite drinking spot. Instead, once a year, he escapes overseas for a well deserved break, looking at turf of a different kind – on a golf course!

Product Review: GOGO Juice ★★★★★

Posted by **Alison Aplin**. Landscape designer and contributor on the Garden Drum blog. Tuesday, 20 March 2012

Likes:

Neutrog products are totally organic, so for those of us who are sustainably inclined, organic products are definitely the choice.

The product comes in a heavy duty tin with a pouring spout. The cap acts as a measuring container for easier use.

Dislikes:

None discernable

Used by whom and where:

I have used this product in my own garden. We have an area of lawn that has been very difficult to get lawn to grow. It is situated in dappled shade with considerable root competition from ash trees. We have tried numerous times to get lawn here, but have had no success with any germination.

Prior to planting the seed, the area was sprayed thoroughly with GOGO Juice. I assumed that the reaction would be the same as before. David and I could not believe that within 4 days we had tufts of germinating seed coming through. And the grass grew rapidly. It had its first haircut about 8 days after planting – far earlier than normal.

The lawn continues to look healthy, requiring very little water to keep it looking good.

Performance:

The promotional literature states that “the microbiology within GOGO Juice stimulates healthy plant growth and encourages root development”. Having seen the remarkable effects of this product on our lawn that had refused to even germinate before, I can vouch for this comment. We will continue, as landscape designers, to use this prior to all planting with our clients in the future.

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Abalimi Bezekhaya Project - Urban Agriculture

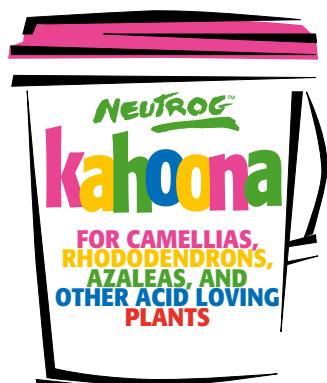
Abalimi means ‘the planters’ in Xhosa, an apt name for this sustainable urban farming project. The project is supplied annually with Rapid Raiser which helps its gardens produce healthy food and maintains soil health and quality.

The Abalimi Bezekhaya Project is an urban agriculture and environmental action association operating in the socio-economically neglected townships of Khayelitsha, Nyanga and surrounding areas on the Cape Flats near Cape Town.

The project assists individuals, groups and community based organisations to initiate and maintain permanent organic food growing and nature conservation projects as the basis for sustainable lifestyles, self-help job creation, poverty alleviation and environmental renewal. Neutrog supports Abalimi with fertiliser, provided free of charge, for its various projects. The yield from the gardens is amazing!

Harvested vegetables are transported to the Harvest of Hope kitchen, washed and packed in mixed boxes and sold to participating restaurants and businesses in the area, thereby generating income for its caretakers. 50% of the food is kept to feed the community.

To learn more about this project visit www.abalimi.org.za



Out soon!

Kahoonas has been developed for acid loving plants such as Gardenias, Rhododendrons, Azaleas & Camellias and is being trialled by all major Camellia & Rhododendron clubs, societies and gardens around Australia. A number of these groups have indicated their intention to endorse the product.



Year round fertilising for year round health

Like humans and animals, plants require regular feeding throughout the year – at least once in each season.

Happy, healthy, well nourished plants are more resistant to pests, diseases, heat stress and frost.

... and the winner is,

Students at Mt Molloy State School in Far North Queensland were thrilled to receive bags and buckets of Rocket Fuel, Seamungus and Rapid Raiser for the school's Veggie & Herb garden. They were winners of a competition, entered after their garden co-ordinator, Juliana, read Holly Kerr-Forsyth's write up on Neutrog products in her column in The Australian Newspaper. Since then the school has also announced that they have been selected to be part of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program bringing the total number of schools involved to 259 around Australia!

Five other lucky winners have also just received their Rocket Fuel won

in the recent 'Adelaide's Best Veggie Patch Competition' run by SA's Messenger Community News.



Liquid SBFO

Strike Back for Orchids Liquid is currently being trialled around the country by numerous Orchid Growers, Clubs & Societies including the Australian Native Orchid Society and various Cymbidium Orchid Societies.



Ready to use

For those who haven't tried the reusable ready to use GOGO Juice yet – look for it in your local garden centre or hardware store. The Spray Pack Applicator is an excellent way to spread GOGO Juice around your lawn, garden beds and pots.



Bare rooted roses



Bare rooted roses will soon be available in retail garden centres and nurseries – for the best results apply Seamungus in the bottom of the hole and cover with soil, before planting the rose.

Apply Sudden Impact for Roses after you see the first signs of new growth in early spring and thereafter each flush of roses (approx once in each season except winter when Seamungus should be applied again).

Many bare rooted rose planting guides advise not to use fertilisers when planting – these reference chemical fertilisers, which can burn plant roots and are generally not suitable for use through the Winter months. Seamungus will not burn plant roots and is ideal to use when planting any plant, not just roses.

The South Australian Rose Society has produced an excellent 'Rose Growing and Planting Guide' – this can be downloaded at www.neutrog.com.au or www.sa.rose.org.au

Around the Grounds...

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens have been busy over Autumn applying Strike Back for Orchids, Seamungus and GOGO Juice.

Oakbank Racecourse have applied Upsurge to the track in preparation for the Easter Racing carnival.

Morwell Centenary Rose Garden and **Mornington Botanical Rose Garden** have recently taken delivery of Sudden Impact for Roses for their Autumn feeding program.



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